

An Account of the Burning of the Articles of the Union at Dumfries,

These are to Notify to All Concerned, what are Our Reasons for, and Designs in the Burning of the Printed Articles of the Proposed Union with England, with the Names of the Scots Commissioners, Subscribers thereof; together with the Minuts of the whole Treaty, betwixt them and the English Commissioners thereunto.

WE have herein no Design against Her Majesty, nor against England, or any Englishman; neither against Our present Parliament, in their Acts or Actings, for the Interest, Safety and Sovereignty of this OUR NATIVE and ANCIENT NATION: But to Testifie Our Dissent from, Discontent with, and Protestation against the Twenty five Articles of the said Union, Subscribed by the foresaid Commissioners; as being Inconsistent with, and altogether prejudicial to, and utterly Destructive of this NATION's Independency, Crown-Rights, and Our Constitute Laws, both Sacred and Civil. We shall not here Condescend upon the particular Prejudices, that do, and will Redound to this Nation, if the said Union should be carried on, according to the Printed Articles: But refers the Reader to the Variety of Addresses, given in to the present Parliament, by all Ranks, from almost all Corners of this Nation, against the said Union: Only We must say, and Profess, That the Commissioners for this Nation, have been either Simple, Ignorant, or Treacherous, if not all three; when the Minuts of the Treaty betwixt the Commissioners of both Kingdoms are duely Considered; and when we compare their Dastardly Yeildings unto the Demands and Proposals of the English Commissioners; who, on the contrar, have Valiantly acquit themselves for the Interest and Safety of their Nation.

We acknowledge it is in the Power of the present Parliament, to give Remissions to the Subscribers of the foresaid Articles; and We heartily wish for a good Agreement amongst all the Members of the Parliament, so as it may tend to the Safety and Preservation of both CHURCH and STATE, with all the Privileges belonging thereto, within the Kingdom of SCOTLAND.

But if the Subscribers of the foresaid Treaty and Union, with their Associates in Parliament, shall presume to carry on the said Union, by a Supream Power, over the Belly of the Generality of this Nation: Then and in that case; as we Judge, that the Consent of the Generality of the same, can only Divest them of their Sacred and Civil Libertys, Purchased and maintained by Our ANCESTORS with their Blood: So we Protest, whatever Ratification of the foresaid Union may pass in Parliament, contrar to Our Fundamental LAWS, LIBERTIES & PRIVILEGES, concerning Church & State, may not be binding upon the Nation, now nor at any time to come: And particularly we Protest against the Approbation of the first Article of the said Union, before the Privileges of this Nation, contain'd in the other Articles had been adjusted and Secured: And so we earnestly Require, that the Representatives in Parliament, who are for Our Nation's Privileges, would give timeous warning to all the Corners of the Kingdom; That we and our Posterity become not Tributary and Bond-slaves to our Neighbours, without acquiting our Selves, as becomes Men and Christians: And we are Confident, that the Soldiers now in Martial Power, have so much of the Spirits of SCOTS-MEN; that they are not Ambitious to be Disposed of, at the pleasure of another Nation: And we hereby Declare, that we have no Design against them in this matter.

This was publickly Read from the Mercat-Cross of Dumfries, about one of the Clock in the Afternoon, the 20th day of November 1706, with great Solemnity, in the Audience of many Thousands; The Fire being Surrounded by double Squadrons of Foot and Horse, in Martial Order: And after the Burning of the said Books, (which were holden up, Burning on the point of a Pike, to the view of all the People, giving their Consent by Huzza's and Cheerful Acclamations.) A Coppy hereof was left affixed on the Cross; as the Testimony of the South part of this Nation against the Proposed Union, as Moulded in the Printed Articles thereof.

This we desire to be Printed and kept in Record, ad futuram rei memoriam

